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- b) a container for said product, said container being accommodated by said housing;
 - c) an injection needle connected to said container and protruding beyond said housing; and
 - d) a needle protection sleeve, surrounding said injection needle and preventing the patient from viewing the needle entering and penetrating tissue and for preventing the patient from gauging a depth of penetration, said needle protection sleeve reciprocatingly shiftable between a proximal position and a distal position, wherein in said distal position, said injection needle protrudes beyond said needle protection sleeve and the needle protection sleeve is received within a receiving sleeve coupled with the housing and disposed concentrically around the needle protection sleeve so that movement of the needle protection sleeve within the receiving sleeve is obscured from view so that the patient is unable to gauge the depth of penetration based on movement of the needle protection sleeve within the receiving sleeve and in said proximal position, said injection needle does not protrude beyond said needle protection sleeve; and
 - e) an indicator which indicates to a user of said apparatus that said needle protection sleeve is in the distal position.

Sub B1
a4

9. (Amended) The apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein said indicator outputs a first signal when said needle protection sleeve has attained the distal position and outputs another signal as long as said needle protection sleeve has still to attain the distal position.

Sub B1
a5

11. (Amended) An apparatus for subcutaneous self-administration of an injectable product by a patient comprising:

- a housing;
- a receiving sleeve coupled with the housing;
- an injection needle protruding beyond said housing;
- a needle protection sleeve generally surrounding said injection needle, said needle protection sleeve connected to said housing and slidable between a proximal position and a distal position, wherein, in said distal position said injection needle protrudes beyond said needle protection sleeve and the needle protection sleeve is disposed within an interior of the receiving

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sleeve so that the patient cannot view the needle entering and penetrating tissue and the patient cannot gauge the relative position of the needle by monitoring the relative movement of a rear portion of the needle protection sleeve and in said proximal position, said injection needle does not protrude beyond said needle protection sleeve; and
an indicator which indicates to a user of the apparatus that the needle protection sleeve is in the distal position.

12. (Amended) The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said indicator provides a first signal when said needle protection sleeve is in the distal position and a second signal as long as said needle protection sleeve is not in the distal position.

Sub 7
ac 14. (Amended) The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said indicator provides a first signal when said needle protection sleeve is in the distal position and a second signal as long as said needle protection sleeve is not in the distal position.

REMARKS

Drawings

The Examiner has requested that a new drawing illustrating certain features. As such, a proposed new Figure 3 has been submitted with the present response. No new matter has been added.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicant respectfully asserts that the above amendments have obviated the issues presented and the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103